

May 25, 2005 BOS Meeting w/Cable Committee

Chief Richard's Memo RE Ladder

Engine 2's Ladder can be replaced

Authorized to withdraw not more than \$1,100.00 from Fire Vehicle CRF.

Purpose of the meeting is to iron out some ongoing issues with the Cable Commission and pull back together.

Vice Chairman Methot opened the discussion and asked what the Cable Commission's purpose is.

Mr. Walter Bohlin: We are a Public Access television station and studio. It is a lot of work and no one is paid. The equipment is old. To do it right we would need to ask for \$150,000.00 and nobody would go for it. There is a bottom to it though and there is bad blood between some board members over the issue of how to get the work done.

Chairman Buono: There were decisions made by Cable recently that were not right, such as paid work be authorized improperly as well as the Cable Commissions authorizing access to the Town's network for the purpose of posing messages. The Cable Commission does not have this authority to do this.

Vice Chairman Methot: Objects to asking volunteers to do the amount of work that is required. We are relying on one person to provide the technical needs. We need to not rely on someone who has to go away as part of their job (Walter had to be away for six months.) We need to hire a technical company to do the work. The mission of the Cable Commission is to provide a service to the community but not to burn out volunteers.

The Cable contract is coming due next year. They are standard with most of the Towns. A lot of money was spent in legal fees last time around.

Chairman Buono invited the Cable Commission to ask for clarification regarding the Board's objection to the prior Cable meeting session.

Mr. Brad McCauley objected to Mr. Steve Flanders being reappointed as Chairman. Vice Chairman Methot and Chairman Buono clarified Steve was being reappointed as a member of the Cable Commission.

There was a discussion of Mr. Brian McDonald and Mr. Derek Geddes not being able to get at equipment to produce shows. They were told by Steve Flanders that the equipment was not available and Walter Bohlin objected. Selectman Kurk states that she was under the understanding that the cameras and playback were not functioning. Walter and Brad stated that the equipment, while old, does work.

How many people on the Cable Commission know how to run a show if someone had a few people to produce a show. Currently there are about three people who know how to get a show on the air.

Chairman Buono: If we had to do with the equipment we have what we need to do to prioritize and get things in order to get shows capable of running.

Walter Bohlin: We are looking at about two hours to get things back ready for live shows. The show that Brian McDonald would like to do would require one or two of the cables to be plugged back in.

Vice Chairman Methot: I hear two major items that are a problem: communication amongst the Cable Commission and communication toward the Board of Selectmen. It has been consistently stated that the equipment was working. This is an example of the communication not being clear.

Steve Flanders stated that he told Derek Geddes the equipment was not usable because it isn't working.

Chairman Buono: There is a desire for people to be trained and that needs to happen. It can happen before or after meetings but it needs to happen.

Vice Chairman Methot: Training is the other key component that is a responsibility of the Cable Commission. Start with the message board and then offer basic training on the editing functions. We have to get more people trained.

Chairman Buono: The Cable Commission needs to poll each of the members to see their interest to help meet the priorities that are established. Each member joined for certain reasons and around certain interests. If this can be tapped into there will be a lot more momentum.

Vice Chairman Methot: Though we have a vision of upgrading the process technologically we are not there yet and it will take a lot of money. So what do we do in the meantime? We have to make due and have cohesiveness with more than one person knowing what to do.

Regarding having a part time person running the Cable Commission's processes the Town has not supported this. Walter stated the Board of Selectmen has not supported a part time person in the past.

Vice Chairman Methot: The Commission needs to formulate short term, intermediate term, and long term plans. The most immediate need is training.

Paul Hague: Can we somehow poll the community to find out what the Town wants for the Cable Commission. Perhaps a poll could be handed out.

Playback: Is it possible to pay someone a stipend to have someone come in each day to do the playback?

A recap of the meeting took place and the agreement of those present that the Cable Commission needs to come up with their plan and to articulate it.

Plan and Training

Walter Bohlin stated that in two years analog television will be going away. We can put a VCR in the conference room for less than \$200.

The Cable contract will be up and there may be some competition available. Chairman Buono stated that we should keep our eye on the dollar amount of what we spend with the cable process next year.

Selectman Osborne announced that Ray Eaton had resigned from the Cable Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45PM.